ARISTOLOCHIA SERPENTARIA.

Virginia Snakeroot.

—

PLATE XLIX.

It is probable that this root, like many other articles now used in medicine, was indebted to its sensible qualities, for its first introduction into use. As the name implies, its earliest medicinal character was founded on a supposed antidotal power against the bite of venomous serpents. Cornutus, at the end of his book on the plants of Canada, published at Paris in 1635, tells us, that a root had been sent to him from "*Natha Anglia*," which was called *Serpentaria*, and in the vernacular tongue *Snakeroot*. This root was a very sure safeguard against the bite of a huge serpent in that country, which proved inevitably fatal within twelve hours, unless a good portion of the antidote

* I am indebted to a gentleman in Georgia for the very natural drawing of this plant.

PL. XLIX

Aristolochia Serpentaria